

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs at pages 11, 46 and 48 have been amended.

Claims 7-20 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. New claims 21-38 have been added. New claims 21-38 correspond to original claims 1-2, 4-10 and 12-20, respectively, but with additional features added in a number of these claims.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-6 and 21-38 are now pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,228,125 to Kuriyama (hereafter "Kuriyama"). These rejections are moot with respect to claims 7-20, which have been canceled. With respect to claims 1-6, applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites "an operating module which, at least when set to a read magnification other than said plurality of read magnifications preset, performs an operating process to compute image data having a corresponding read magnification other than said plurality of read magnifications preset to the sub-scanning direction in accordance with the first and second signals read by the first and second reading modules at any one of said plurality of read magnifications preset, wherein, when set to a read magnification of said plurality of read magnifications preset, the change of the magnifications in the sub-scanning

direction is performed by changing the scanning speed of the carriage, and when set to a read magnification other than said plurality of read magnifications preset, the change of the magnifications in the sub-scanning direction is performed by changing the scanning speed of the carriage, and the operating process by the operating module.” Kuriyama fails to disclose the operating module as recited in amended claim 1.

The Office Action cites to Kuriyama at col. 13, line 63 to col. 14, line 7 as disclosing the operating module of claim 1. Kuriyama discloses in this cited section that the image reader 1 performs processing including color separation, quantization, shading correction, density conversion, magnification variation and filtering in a parallel manner on the two-system image signals obtained by the image sensors 10a and 10b, the one-line combining/separating unit 282 performs line integration and picture element division, to perform processing including trimming, masking, simple binarization, pseudo half tone processing, and negative processing on two-system image data divided into image data of odd and even picture elements, and finally the line combining unit 289 combines these image data.

Kuriyama, however, does not disclose the recited operating module of claim 1, as amended, either in the cited section, or anywhere else in Kuriyama. Namely, Kuriyama fails to disclose an operating module “which, at least when set to a read magnification other than said plurality of read magnifications preset, performs an operating process to compute image data having a corresponding read magnification other than said plurality of read magnifications preset to the sub-scanning direction in accordance with the first and second signals read by the first and second reading modules at any one of said plurality of read magnifications preset, wherein, when set to a read magnification of said plurality of read magnifications preset, the change of the magnifications in the sub-scanning direction is performed by changing the scanning speed of the carriage, and when set to a read magnification other than said plurality of read magnifications preset, the change of the magnifications in the sub-scanning direction is performed by changing the scanning speed of the carriage, and the operating process by the operating module.” Claim 1 is patentable over Kuriyama for at least this reason.

Dependent claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Claim 5 and 6

Independent claim 5, as amended, recites a scanning module and a correcting module as follows: “a scanning module including a carriage which relatively moves the first and second reading modules and the image of the document to make first and second reading modules scan the image of the document in its sub-scanning direction at a predetermined speed based on predetermined scanning control conditions in accordance with 100%, $2n$ times of 100%, or $1/2n$ times of 100% (n being an integer) as a plurality of read magnifications preset as read magnifications by the first and second reading modules, the predetermined scanning control conditions being set in accordance with said plurality of read magnifications preset so as to change magnifications of the image of the document in the sub-scanning direction by the first and second reading modules by changing the scanning speed of the carriage” and “a correcting module which aligns every line the color signals read by the second reading module which is moved for scanning by the scanning module in the sub-scanning direction based on the predetermined scanning control conditions in accordance with 100%, $2n$ times of 100%, or $1/2n$ times of 100% (n being an integer) as the read magnifications preset as the read magnifications by the second reading module, by means of a delay memory which delays the color signals by a predetermined number of lines.” Kuriyama fails to disclose either the scanning module or correcting module as presently recited in claim 5.

The Office Action cites to Kuriyama at col. 17, line 62 to col. 18, line 24 as disclosing the scanning module of claim 5. Kuriyama, however, merely explains in this cited section the constituent units of the electric circuit unit 12 illustrated in FIG. 36, and does not disclose in any fashion a scanning module “including a carriage which relatively moves the first and second reading modules and the image of the document to make first and second reading modules scan the image of the document in its sub-scanning direction at a predetermined speed based on predetermined scanning control conditions in accordance with 100%, $2n$ times of 100%, or $1/2n$ times of 100% (n being an integer) as a plurality of read magnifications preset as read magnifications by the first and second reading modules, the predetermined scanning control conditions being set in accordance with said plurality of read magnifications

preset so as to change magnifications of the image of the document in the sub-scanning direction by the first and second reading modules by changing the scanning speed of the carriage.” Thus, Kuriyama fails to anticipate or render obvious claim 5.

With respect to the correcting module of claim 5, the Office Action cites to col. 6, lines 5-29 and FIG. 4. Kuriyama, in this cited section, discloses the functions of an on-line combining/separating unit 282. Kuriyama, however, does not disclose in this section or any other section a correcting module “which aligns every line the color signals read by the second reading module which is moved for scanning by the scanning module in the sub-scanning direction based on the predetermined scanning control conditions in accordance with 100%, $2n$ times of 100%, or $1/2n$ times of 100% (n being an integer) as the read magnifications preset as the read magnifications by the second reading module, by means of a delay memory which delays the color signals by a predetermined number of lines” as recited in amended claim 5. Thus, again, Kuriyama fails to anticipate or render obvious claim 5.

Independent claim 6, as amended recites “a scanning module including a carriage which relatively moves the reading module and the image of the document to make the reading module scan the image of the document in its sub-scanning direction at a predetermined speed based on predetermined scanning control conditions in accordance with 100%, $2n$ times of 100%, or $1/2n$ times of 100% (n being an integer) as a plurality of read magnifications preset as read magnifications by the reading module, the predetermined scanning control conditions being set in accordance with said plurality of read magnifications preset so as to change magnifications of the image of the document in the sub-scanning direction by the reading module by changing the scanning speed of the carriage” and “a correcting module which aligns every line the color signals read by the reading module which is moved for scanning by the scanning module in the sub-scanning direction based on the predetermined scanning control conditions in accordance with 100%, $2n$ times of 100%, or $1/2n$ times of 100% (n being an integer) as said plurality of read magnifications preset as the read magnifications by the reading module, by means of a delay memory which delays the color signals by a predetermined number of lines.” Thus claim 6 is patentable for reasons analogous to claim 5.

New claims 21-38

New claims 21-38 are presented and are likewise believed to be patentable over Kuriyama.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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